

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 DACCA 04875 310937Z
ACTION NEA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY DACCA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5998

C O N F I D E N T I A L DACCA 4875

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OVIP, BG, US
SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR CALL BY ZIA ON PRESIDENT CARTER

REFS: A. STATE 198355; B. DACCA 4837; C. STATE 207381

1. DURING OUR MEETING ON AUGUST 31, PRESIDENTIAL ADVISOR SHAMSUL HAQUE INQUIRED ABOUT THE STATUS OF THE BDG'S REQUEST, MADE THROUGH AMBASSADOR SIDDIQI IN WASHINGTON, FOR AN APPOINTMENT FOR PRESIDENT ZIA TO CALL ON PRESIDENT CARTER. I SAID THIS REQUEST WAS UNDER CONSIDERATION BUT THAT THE PRESIDENT'S SCHEDULE WAS EXTREMELY CROWDED AND NO DECISION HAD BEEN MADE AS YET.

2. HAQUE SAID THAT ZIA ATTACHED "GREAT IMPORTANCE" TO AT LEAST A BRIEF MEETING WITH THE PRESIDENT. HE VERY MUCH HOPED THIS COULD TAKE PLACE IN WASHINGTON RATHER THAN IN NEW YORK. ZIA WAS FLEXIBLE REGARDING TIMING, AND IF THE PRESIDENT'S SCHEDULE DID NOT PERMIT A MEETING DURING OCTOBER, ZIA COULD VISIT THE UN DURING NOVEMBER AND GO ON TO WASHINGTON FOR A BRIEF MEETING AT THAT TIME. HAQUE SAID THAT HE AND ZIA BELIEVE A MEETING NOW WOULD BE MOST USEFUL AGAINST THE "HISTORICAL BACKDROP" OF THE USG "TILT" TOWARD PAKISTAN AT THE TIME OF BANGLADESH'S INDEPENDENCE. THIS, HAQUE SAID, WOULD CLEARLY SIGNAL AN END TO THAT PHASE OF OUR RELATIONSHIP AND UNDERSCORE THE
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COOPERATIVE GOOD RELATIONS WHICH NOW EXIST.

3. REFERRING TO THE FACT THAT INDIAN PRIME MINISTER MORARJI DESAI HAS BEEN INVITED TO WASHINGTON, HAQUE SAID THAT A MEETING BETWEEN PRESIDENT ZIA AND PRESIDENT CARTER WOULD CLEARLY DEMONSTRATE THAT THE U.S. IS COOPERATING WITH ALL NATIONS IN SOUTH ASIA

TO ENSURE POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC STABILITY.

4. I TOLD HAQUE I WOULD PASS THIS ADDITIONAL
INFORMATION ON TO THE DEPARTMENT, AND THAT WE
WOULD BE IN TOUCH WITH THE BDG JUST AS SOON AS A
DECISION WAS MADE.
MASTERS

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NNN

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